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March 6, 2023

Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I am a life-time resident of our state, and I am writing to urge you all to oppose H.B. 6816 and any other bill that infringes on me and my fellow citizens' constitutional rights. I propose the following arguments:

1. This bill is clearly unconstitutional. Per the recent US Supreme Court case, *NEW YORK STATE RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION, INC., ET AL. v. BRUEN*, the government must affirmatively prove that its firearms regulation is part of the historical tradition. This bill fails that test as it seeks to ban arms that are in common use, semi-automatic firearms, by requiring burdensome microstamping which has no effect on crime (criminals often grind off serial numbers). The number of firearms available today that support microstamping is practically nonexistent.
2. There is no "gun violence" problem to solve. Let's first review the number of firearm deaths in the state of Connecticut. According to the Center for Disease Control website, (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/connecticut/connecticut.htm>), the number of firearm related deaths has been stagnant between 2005 and 2017(which is the most recent data available) at around 180 deaths per year. This equates to 0.00005% of our state's population (approx. 3.5 million). When we remove the number of suicides (since those folks will end their life one way or another) by firearms, that number drops to 60. This is statistically insignificant when there are other more pressing issues that should be the focus instead. These issues include drug overdoses (10x more than firearm deaths), cancer (60x more than firearm deaths), heart disease (70x more than firearm deaths).

3. This bill, and other gun control laws, are discriminatory toward a class of citizens. All gun control laws in this country have roots in racism. Some of them predate the founding of the United States such as laws in the colony of Virginia which prohibited slaves from owning guns. Even after the Civil War, southern states passed the "Black Codes" which disarmed and economically disabled African Americans in order to sustain white supremacy. This bill discriminates against the middle and lower classes.

We must remember that laws such as this proposed bill are ineffective at preventing and/or reducing violence. Just like the "Assault rifle" ban in 2013 after the Sandy Hook school shooting, it did nothing to affect the number of firearm related deaths since its implementation. The proof is in the numbers as shown in federal studies such as the *Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003*. Instead, we should focus on untreated mental health problems, gang & drug activity, as well as the lack of education and poor economic conditions which lead to cycles of poverty and crime. Those are the real problems that deserve focus. I implore you, vote NO on H.B. 6816.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Tucciarone". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Tucciarone" clearly legible.

Joseph Tucciarone